

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated August 20, 2010. Claims 1, 4, 7 to 24, 27, 30, 31 and 34 to 41 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 7 to 24, 27, 31 and 34 to 37 are hereby amended. No new matter has been added by such amendments. Support for the amendment can be found in the Specification, for example, in at least pages 14 to 25 of the application as filed. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 25, 26, 28, 29 and 33 stand previously canceled. Claims 4, 30, 32 and 38 to 41 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 17, 27 and 31 are in independent form. A Request for Continued Examination is submitted with this Response. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner allow the application or provide an Office Action which identifies "... any claims which he or she judges, as presently recited, to be allowable and/or ... suggest any way in which he or she considers that rejected claims may be amended to make them allowable" in accordance with §707.07(d) of the MPEP. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for all payments due in connection with this Request for Continued Examination and this Response.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 4, 7 to 24, 27, 30 to 32 and 34 to 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,652,896 to Yamauchi, et al. ("Yamauchi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,182,026 to Tillmann, et al. ("Tillmann"). In view of the amendments made herein, Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections.

Yamauchi discloses a language conversion system and text creating system. The Abstract of Yamauchi discloses:

[a] language conversion system converts an original sentence in a source-language into a translated sentence in a target-language. The language conversion system includes a original analysis unit for analyzing the original sentence so as to obtain an intermediate structure of the original, an idea center extraction unit for extracting an idea center from the intermediate structure obtained by the original analysis unit, the idea center being a central expression of an idea to be described by a sentence, an identification unit for identifying a sentence pattern including the idea center extracted by the idea center extraction unit, an information extraction unit for extracting information required by the sentence pattern identified by the identification unit from the intermediate structure of the original sentence, a decision unit for deciding an intermediate structure of a translated sentence based on the sentence pattern and request information extracted by the information extraction unit, and a creation unit for creating a translated sentence in a surface level from the intermediate structure decided by the decision unit.

Fig. 88 of Yamauchi (reproduced below) illustrates an example of an interaction screen.

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Column 54, lines 56 to 57 of Yamauchi discloses “Fig. 88 shows examples comments displayed when the system inquires of the user about required information.”

Tillmann discloses a device for translating a source text into a target using modeling and dynamic programming. The Abstract of Tillmann discloses:

[f]or translating a word-organized source text into a word-organized target text through mapping of source words on target words, both a translation model and a language model are used. In particular, alignment probabilities are ascertained between various source word & target word pairs, whilst preemptively assuming that alignment between such word pairs is monotonous through at least substantial substrings of a particular sentence. This is done by evaluating incrementally statistical translation performance of various target word strings, deciding on an optimum target word string, and outputting the latter.

The natural language processing apparatus resulting from a combination of Yamauchi and Tillmann would include a system which inquires a user about required information. (Yamauchi, column 54, lines 56 to 57). Page 9 of the Office Action stated Yamauchi discloses:

confirmation means for confirming at least one representation converted by the converting means as being closest in meaning to the inputted first natural language (Fig. 88 his cursor providing confirmation means for closest in meaning of one of a plurality of representations of an input ...);

In view thereof, as best understood by the Applicant, it appears the Office Action would interpret Yamauchi's required information as the confirmed representation of the natural language processing apparatus of Claim 1. Under such an interpretation, Applicant submits that Yamauchi's required information is not unmatched to first attributes of a template table such that Yamauchi's required information is unsuitable for translation. That is, neither Yamauchi or Tillmann individually, nor the natural language processing apparatus resulting from a combination of Yamauchi and Tillmann discloses: (a) confirming at least one of the converted representations as being closest in meaning to the inputted first natural language, the confirmed representation being unmatched to any first attributes of a template table such that the confirmed representation is unsuitable for translation; and (b) re-converting the confirmed at least one representation to a re-converted representation within the first natural language by exchanging word order of the at least one representation, the re-converted representation matching at least one of the first attributes of the template table such that the re-converted representation is suitable for translation.

On the other hand, the natural language processing apparatus of Claim 1 includes, among other elements, "a memory device storing instructions which when executed by the processor, cause the processor to operate with the input device to . . . (c) confirm at least one of the converted representations as being closest in meaning to the inputted first natural language, the confirmed representation being unmatched to any first attributes of a template table such that the confirmed representation is unsuitable for translation; (d) re-convert the confirmed at least one representation to a re-converted representation within the first natural language by exchanging word order of the at least one representation, the re-converted representation matching at least one of the first attributes of the template table such that the re-converted representation is suitable for translation"

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 is patentably distinguished over Yamauchi and Tillmann and in condition for allowance. Dependent Claims 7 to 16 depend either directly or indirectly from amended independent Claim

1 and are also allowable for the reasons given with respect to Claim 1 and because of the additional features recited in these claims.

Independent Claims 17, 27 and 31 each include certain similar elements to independent Claim 1. For reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1, independent Claims 17, 27 and 31 (and dependent Claims 18 to 24, 35 and 36) are each patentably distinguished over Yamauchi and Tillmann and in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejected Claim 38 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamauchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,742,505 to Fushimoto ("Fushimoto"). The Office Action rejected Claim 40 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamauchi in view of Fushimoto and U.S. Patent No. 5,541,837 to Fushimoto ("Fushimoto II"). Applicant submits that the cancellation of Claims 38 to 41 render these rejections moot.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance, and allowance is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 20, 2010